

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Northop Community Council held remotely via Zoom Pro on Monday 14th February 2022

PRESENT: Councillors Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Linda Scott, Linda Deane, Alison Brebner, Rob Mackey, John Carlin, Cara Baker, Levi Hamilton, Jarred Livesey and the Clerk.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Watkin, Councillor Bateman, Councillor Higgs and Joanne Millar had already given their apologies.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations of interest made at the meeting.

2. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk informed members that PCSO Lucy Davies has replaced PCSO Adeline Olaru and will be working alongside PCSO Ryan Thomas covering Northop and Sychdyn villages. There was no verbal Police report provided prior to the meeting. It was resolved that the Clerk would again request information regarding any Police matters in both villages.

3. MINUTES

A copy of the draft minutes had been shared with all members prior to the meeting. Councillor Lawton-Hughes proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and this was seconded by Councillor Deane. All members were in agreement.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Matters Arising

Agenda Item 11 Statement of Income and Expenditure

The Clerk confirmed that the Precept request form had been completed and returned.

Agenda Item 14 Public Rights of Way Matchfunding Update 2022

The Clerk had liaised with Stuart Jones at Flintshire County Council and shared Northop Community Council's suggestion that the northern section of Springy Lane be considered as priority for upgrading.

4. STREETSCENE ISSUES

There were no Streetscene issues raised by members.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) To consider the following planning applications:

(i) **063775**

PROPOSAL: Addition of external door to utility room.

AT: Land adjacent Offa Bank, Wats Dyke, Soughton, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6DX

Members were unable to discuss this application, as the application was not yet open for comments. It was resolved to discuss the application at the March meeting and the Clerk to request an extension to the deadline to comment if required.

(ii) **063931**

PROPOSAL: Proposed extension and alterations to provide Annexe accomodation.

AT: Bryn Seion Chapel, London Road, Soughton, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6EL

Members were unable to discuss this application, as the application was not yet open for comments. It was resolved to discuss the application at the March meeting and the Clerk to request an extension to the deadline to comment if required.

(ii) **063803**

PROPOSAL: Retention of existing marquee for a further 3 year period to cater for weddings and general function in conjunction with hotel use (previously approved under Planning re 059147).

AT: Soughton Hall, Soughton, Mold Flintshire CH7 6AB

(There were no objections raised by Northop Community Council to this application).

(iv) **063804**

PROPOSAL: Retention of existing marquee for a further 3 year period to cater for weddings and general function in conjunction with hotel use (previously approved under Planning ref 059147).

AT: Soughton Hall, Soughton, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6AB

(There were no objections raised by Northop Community Council to this application).

(v) **064006**

PROPOSAL: Erection of a two storey extension to annexe to house family on upper floor and grandparents on lower floor (previously refused on application 063085).

AT: Cobblers Wood Farm Annexe, Altami Road, Sychdyn, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6RH

(There were no objections raised by Northop Community Council to this application).

(vi) **063810**

PROPOSAL:Erection of 13no. holiday lodges, Reception/Office and Workshop/Equipment Store.

AT: Baling Wire Products Limited, Northop Country Park, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6WA

(There were objections raised regarding this application by Northop Community Council).

(vii) **064008**

PROPOSAL: Proposed demolition of existing poor quality rear extension and conservatory. Construction of new rear single and two storey extension to provide adequate living accommodation.

AT: Clars Mount, Church Road, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6BS
(There were no objections raised by Northop Community Council to this application).

(viii) **064037**

PROPOSAL: Garage conversion. New rear doors on rear elevation and high level non opening obscure window to the side elevation.

AT: 14 Fox Field, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6GQ

Members were unable to discuss this application, as the application was not yet open for comments. It was resolved to discuss the application at the March meeting and the Clerk to request an extension to the deadline to comment if required.

(viii) **064053**

PROPOSAL: Change existing flat roof areas to pitched roof.

AT: Pwll Y Gaseg, Soughton, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6AE

Members were unable to discuss this application, as the application as there were no records available. It was resolved to discuss the application at the March meeting and the Clerk to request an extension to the deadline to comment if required.

(ix) **063936**

PROPOSAL: Formation of new slurry lagoon to improve the existing slurry management system on the farm to conform with the requirements of The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021. The structure is not to accommodate an increase in stock number.

AT: Bryn Mawr Farm, Allt Goch Lane, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6DL

Members were unsure whether this application was within their boundary. It was resolved that the Clerk would check and if appropriate members to discuss the application at the March meeting and the Clerk to request an extension to the deadline to comment if required.

(b) The Council accepted correspondence from Flintshire County Council's Head of Planning regarding planning applications on which the Council had previously submitted observations.

(i) **063882** Delegated Officer Certificate of Conformity Refused 10/01/2022

PROPOSAL: To demolish existing single storey sub standard extension and conservatory. Construct new extension. Extension will be two storey in part to the rear of the property.

AT: Clars Mount, Church Road, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6BS

(There were no objections raised to this application by Northop Community Council).

(ii) **063455** Delegated Officer Approved 27/01/2022

PROPOSAL: Installation of a new balanced flue, gas boiler/plant enclosure to replace existing oil tank and plinth. Installation of new mains gas supply through the churchyard from the highway in Church Road.

AT: St Eurgain and St Peters Church, Church Road, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6

(There were no objections raised to this application by Northop Community Council).

(iii) **063523** Delegated Officer Refused 25/01/2022

PROPOSAL: Conversion of existing stable block and store to holiday accomodation.

AT: Coach Mews Cottage, Sychdyn, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6AD

(There were no objections to this application made by Northop Community Council).

(iv) **064037** Delegated Officer Certificate of Conformity Agreed 25/01/2022

PROPOSAL: Garage conversion. New rear doors on rear elevation and high level non opening obscure window to side elevation.

AT: 14 Fox Field, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6GQ

The Clerk to query with the Planning Department what the Certificate of Conformity relates to and whether this is the same application as previously received.

7. ACCOUNTS

(a) To approve the payment of the following accounts:-

(i) **Clerks Salary – February 2022 Mrs S C Lovell at £675.07 (Net); Cheque Number 002363**

Comprising of:

Clerks Salary February at £614.64

Reimbursement of Expenses including Mileage, Postage & Stationery from 01/10/2021 – 31/01/2022 at total of £60.43

(ii) **HMRC – Income Tax in respect of Clerk’s salary paid February 2022 at £46.40; Cheque Number 002364**

(iii) **Clwyd Pension Fund Employers & Employee Pension contribution for Clerk February 2022 at £182.79; Cheque Number 002365**

(iv) **Flintshire County Council – Street Lighting Energy April, May & June 2021 (Invoice Number TX096559) at £414.96; Cheque Number 002366**

(v) **Flintshire County Council – Street Lighting Energy July, August & September 2021 (Invoice Number TX096560) at £414.96; Cheque Number 002367**

(vi) **Flintshire County Council – Street Lighting Energy October, November & December 2021 (Invoice Number TX096561) at £414.96; Cheque Number 002368**

(vii) **Hannah James Associates Ltd – Support with Gully Repair Northop at £480.00; Cheque Number 002369**

Councillor Deane proposed that the payments be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Hamilton. All Members were in agreement.

Motion Carried Unanimously

8. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

(a) **School Crossing Patrol in Sychdyn (Councillor L. Higgs)**

The Clerk had received an update from Councillor Bateman prior to the meeting, to share with members. Councillor Bateman and representatives from Flintshire County Council are due to have a site meeting to consider a permanent crossing in Sychdyn. Details for the position of School Crossing Patrol have also been advertised recently. Councillor Scott suggested that the matter be discussed again at the March meeting.

(b) **Business Rates for Local Company** (Councillor C. Humphreys)

Councillor Humphreys raised concern on behalf of a local business in Sychdyn, who were struggling financially following the impact of Covid and possible future rent increases. Councillor Lawton-Hughes suggested that they contact Shaun Darlington at the Flintshire Local Voluntary Council for advice and regarding what support maybe available for businesses in their position. It was resolved that Councillor Humphreys would share this information with the local business.

9. TRAFFIC MATTERS

Councillor Brebner asked when the public consultation which encompasses many of the traffic issues in Northop would take place. It had been placed on hold temporarily due to the pandemic and staffing issues. Councillor Deane raised concern regarding the speed of vehicles when approaching the traffic lights at Northop from both directions. Following discussion, it was agreed that the public consultation is likely to cover this particular matter.

10. UPDATE ON THE A55/A494/A548 - DEESIDE CORRIDOR PROJECT

Councillor Brebner reported that as the STAMP Group need to keep the report as succinct as possible, it would not be necessary for the Community Council to write to the Highways Review Panel highlighting the previous concerns regarding the Red Route at present. The report is currently being prepared to go to the Review Panel.

Councillor Mackey informed members that he was aware that all road improvement schemes have been placed on hold and that no new projects will commence until they have been reviewed.

11. MANAGEMENT PLAN – NORTHOP CAR PARK & ENVIRONS

- (a) Members discussed the information received from Andrew Barnard who had met with the contractor (who has provided the latest quote) on site. It was resolved that Councillor Mackey and Councillor Carlin meet to make recommendations to the March meeting, as to how to proceed regarding the repair. The Clerk to provide Councillor Mackey and Councillor Carlin a summary of quotes to date, prior to the meeting.
- (b) Councillor Scott, Councillor Bateman and Councillor Mackey had met with John Williams, Trustee of the Northop Silver Band to discuss the maintenance of the Band Hall site. Various options for managing the maintenance of the Band Hall site were discussed. It was felt that the best option was for the Community Council to continue to maintain the grass on the Band Hall site but arrange for it to be cut once rather than twice a month. Councillor Bateman had liaised with Flintshire County Council who have agreed to take on the responsibility of cutting the inside and the outside of the hedges twice a year. Councillor Bateman had met on site with Mr

John Williams and Stuart Body at Flintshire County Council to discuss the tree which is overhanging the Band Hall. The County Council is to look into the possibility of replacing the tree with a hardwood tree (one of six) which are to be donated to the village by Mr Phil Hunt.

- (c) It was agreed that the Clerk would proceed with obtaining three quotes on the basis of maintaining the grass on the Northop Car Park and Band Hall site once a month, March to October, for a three year contract period. Members to consider the quotes at the March meeting.

11. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PLAYScheme 2022

Members agreed in principle fund the annual Playscheme in Northop and Sychdyn for Summer 2022.

12. QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2022

Members discussed the above event and plans to organise any local events on the day. Councillor Scott informed members that an independent committee had been set up in Northop to arrange a number of local events over the Bank Holiday weekend. Council agreed that any events to be organised in both communities should be the responsibility of the community and that the Community Council's remit would be to support any events and rather than organise them.

Councillor Scott informed members that she would be willing to donate her Chair's Allowance for 2021/22 of £200 equally towards events in both Northop and Sychdyn villages, dependent on receiving evidence of what it is to be spent on. Councillor Brebner and Councillor Deane suggested that the Community Council consider any requests for assistance with funding for their events.

Councillor Deane suggested the Community Council consider funding a souvenir of the Queens Platinum Jubilee, such as a mug, for all pupils at schools in Northop and Sychdyn, as has been done in the past. No formal decision was taken however, several members felt that it was not appropriate to fund a souvenir mug for all pupils.

13. REQUESTS FOR FUNDING**

- (a) Members discussed the request for funding assistance from Sychdyn Bowling Club, having had the opportunity to consider the financial accounts prior to the meeting. Councillor Deane proposed that the Community Council donate £500 to the Bowling Club and this was seconded by Councillor Lawton-Hughes.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Scott that the Community Council should liaise further with the Bowling Club to ask whether any building repairs would be covered by their building insurance. This was seconded by Councillor Brebner. A vote was taken with seven members in favour and two against.

Motion Carried

It was resolved the Clerk would contact Sychdyn Bowling Club for clarification regarding their insurance and feedback to members at the March meeting.

- (b) Councillors received the correspondence requesting a financial donation from Love North Wales Community Support.

14. CLERK SALARY SCALE REVIEW (APRIL 2021)

The Clerk was asked to leave the meeting whilst the matter was considered. Members discussed the review of the salary scale for the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer as of April 2021 as required under the Clerk's contract.

16. SANDHOLE FIELD

- (a) The Clerk advised that the contractors who had previously quoted to desilt the ditch were unable to provide a date to undertake a further site visit. Councillor Hamilton and Councillor Carlin provided details of an additional two groundwork contractors who could be approached for a quote. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow this up prior to the March meeting.
- (b) Members considered the tenancy agreement matters and it was agreed the Clerk would update the solicitor and arrange for the agreement to be drawn up, to commence in April 2022 when the existing agreement ends.

17. BOUNDARY COMMISSION CONSULTATION**

Members discussed the Boundary Commission consultation and agreed that it was not necessary for the Community Council to respond to the consultation on this occasion. Members to request an update from Councillor Bateman following her submission as Local Members.

16. HYNET CONSULTATION**

Members received the information regarding the Hynet consultation.

19. LOCAL GOVERNMENT & ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021 : COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL STATUTORY GUIDANCE CONSULTATION

Members discussed the Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils consultation and agreed that no response was necessary.

16. FOR INFORMATION

- (a) Members received the correspondence from the Edith Bankes Memorial Hall Committee regarding the grant awarded for 2021/22.

- (b) It was agreed that the Welsh Government consultation on its updated National Strategy to stop violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence could be undertaken on an individual basis should members wish to do so.
- (c) The information from Calon Hearts regarding grants of £300 to assist Councils in obtaining this life-saving defibrillator equipment was received.
- (d) Members agreed that the information regarding funding available for events planned for the Queens Platinum Jubilee should be shared with members of both Northop and Sychdyn communities who are planning to organise local events in celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Councillor Scott to share the information with the Northop Jubilee Committee and Councillor Humphreys to share with relevant parties in Sychdyn.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S
CODE OF CONDUCT**

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 14th February 2022
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There were no new declarations of interest made at the meeting.

MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS